

## Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Road Map

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Romans 9:6-16

September 22 & 23, 2018

**Be clear! Only children of the promise are actually children of Abraham.**

- *Father Abraham had many sons. Many sons had father Abraham. I am...*
  - ♦ Did you sing it (as a round) at camp, VBS, Sunday School
  - ♦ It's a simple teaching of Romans 9, Galatians 3, John 8...
    - Abraham is the father of all believers - he trusted God's promise
    - His many *sons/children* - all who also trust the gospel promises
  - ♦ What if it is sung at an ecumenical event of Christians, Jews, Muslims - the so-called *Three Great Abrahamic Faiths*
    - *So-called* because each claims Abraham as the Father of their Faith
    - Paul is clear: <sup>6</sup> *...not all who are descended from Israel are Israel.* <sup>7</sup> *Nor because they are his descendants are they all Abraham's children.*
    - Singing *Father Abraham* promotes a lie - a falsehood.

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- ❖ The Fathers of the Faith: Abraham & Israel
  - ***Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.*** Gal 3:6
    - ♦ Trust in God's promises - led to a new homeland, waiting for a child, trusting Yahweh would raise Isaac after sacrificing him...
    - ♦ ***"Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend.*** James 2:23
  - God named Jacob ***Israel*** after he wrestled with God by faith. Gen. 32:28
  - Through this God-created faith, by God's grace - reborn children of God
- ❖ Such faith defines *the children of Abraham* - true *Israel*
  - By the work of God's promise - *children of the promise*
    - ♦ Isaac, not Ishmael - Jacob, not Esau
    - ♦ <sup>7</sup> ***Understand, then, that those who have faith are children of Abraham.*** <sup>8</sup> ***Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: "All nations will be blessed through you."*** <sup>9</sup> ***So those who rely on faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.*** Galatians 3
    - ♦ Jesus to Jews who didn't believe in him: ***"If you were Abraham's children, then you would do what Abraham did.*** John 8:39
      - The children share the faith - think and act like Abraham - a child of God
    - ♦ Children of Abraham, true *Israel* are God's children through faith
      - ***Israel*** in the Bible means the Church - all with saving faith in Christ
      - without living faith: *...not all who are descended from Israel are Israel.*

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- ❖ View the State of Israel and Jews through this clear teaching
  - It's not our job to lecture those who identify as Israel. Respect civil rights.
  - We need to be clear. God says the State of Israel is not Israel. Jews either.
    - ♦ This is not anti-Semitic. Isaiah, Jeremiah, all prophets said out of love.
  - Application: State of Israel - Jews and American Evangelicals
    - ♦ Israel's claim to Palestine - based on a broken covenant. Proof:
      - God tore the Temple Curtain when Jesus died. Covenant done!
      - Yahweh withdrew the Temple in 70 AD. He never replaced it.
    - ♦ State of Israel - like all governments that exist (Rom 13) is a servant of God, just as Iraq, Russia, North Korea, Saudi Arabia. No more. No less.
    - ♦ Evangelicals who ignore *not all who are descended from Israel are Israel*
      - Focus on OT promises "forever" ignoring it was a conditional covenant
      - Ignore Paul's clear words and those of our Lord Jesus Christ!
      - Wrong definition of Israel in Revelation (geography & Jews vs. Church)
        - Make the state of Israel critical for Jesus' returns (yes more than 1)
        - Support the State of Israel out of this false hope
    - ♦ Evangelicals compromises central gospel truths with their focus on the physical
      - When Israel can be God's people while not believing in Jesus:
        - They throw out by *faith alone* - true *children of Abraham*
        - Rely on flesh (genes, heritage, culture) not God's grace.
      - Evangelical's false hopes for Israel - compromise the gospel they teach!
        - To think Jews who don't believe in Jesus are God's children calls Jesus a liar when he said: ***Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him.*** John 5:23

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What about us? Besides not falling into this error what's our take away?

- ❖ Children of the promise keep that focus.
  - God's gospel promises made us his children.
  - *Children of the promise* is our character and identity.
    - ♦ Not focused on *fair*. Know *grace is not fair! Undeserved treasure!*
  - Failing to focus/obsess on ***the promise*** endangers our claim. *He owes us.*
  - Those who neglect word and sacrament at not children of the promise
  - ***not all who claim to be Christian are Christian***

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